

26th March 2020

Hello everyone

I mentioned yesterday that my last email would be my last for a while. It seems the information will keep coming and I will forward on what I think might be helpful for you. The following is the latest update from the Ministry of Education.

Removing data caps for internet

Please be advised most of the major telcos have now removed data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage.

Please see the links to those major companies below if your staff or students working from home need further support with this.

SPARK - <https://www.spark.co.nz/help/covid-19/>

“Removing overage charges for customers who are on data-capped broadband plans, so they won’t have to worry about paying extra to stay connected. This applies to both small and medium business and consumer customers;”

VODAFONE - <https://news.vodafone.co.nz/covid-19-care>

“The removal of data caps from data-capped Broadband plans for consumers and small to medium sized businesses until at least the end of June 2020”

VOCUS/SLINGSHOT - https://help.slingshot.co.nz/hc/en-us/articles/900000386943-Our-action-against-COVID-19?_ga=2.224375707.1878754814.1585097493-87562686.1585097493

“We removed all the data caps from our plans to better enable you to work from home during this time of social distancing and self-isolation.”

2DEGREES - <https://www.2degreesmobile.co.nz/help-and-support/mobile/your-account/covid-19/>

“Any customer who was on a limited data plan on or before Friday, March 20 will now receive unlimited data through until June 2020.”

Schools are closed

After 11.59pm today, **no one** is to go on site to schools during the lockdown.

Government announcement about children aged 0 – 14 of Essential Workers

Further to our Bulletin content about self-isolating groups (circles of care), Government has confirmed the following arrangements today. **You may wish to forward this to your community immediately.**

Where possible, essential workers need to make their own arrangements for childcare from Thursday 26 March until the end of the lockdown, due to limited capacity.

Where this is not possible alternative arrangements have been made so essential

workers can continue to work.

What essential workers need to know when making their own arrangements

Essential workers will need to use their existing networks for in home care, for example a neighbor, relative, friend or current carer/nanny who can come to their house, or provide childcare in their own home. There are Public Health rules that must be observed:

- The person caring for your child becomes part of your self-isolating group
- This group must remain the same for the whole period
- The carer must not care for children from other households (other than their own) over the same period
- If a child or carer becomes unwell, they must stay at home

If essential workers do not have access to childcare through their own networks

If essential workers are unable to access childcare to perform their essential service, the government will fund other licensed childcare providers (for example through PORSE, Barnados and Edubase / Home Grown Kids) to provide in home care to the children aged 0-14 of essential workers. The carer would be subject to the same Public Health rules as set out above.

For the purposes of providing care to children of essential workers, the in home carer will be classified as an essential worker in both cases.

Initial list of contact details for providers

- [Barnados website](#) - email covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz or call 0800 BARNARDOS (0800 227 627)
- [Edubase / Home Grown Kids website](#) or call 0508 44 54 37 or email info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE website 0800 023 456](#)